(c) In order to step up exports of tea, Russian authorities at highest level have been contacted to procure higher quantities of teas from India under the debt repayment mechanism. A delegation led by the Chairman, Tea Board had also visited Iran recently to sort out issues regarding delays in opening of LCs by Iranian authorities in respect of contracts signed for exports of tea to that country.

Exercising Control over Investments by Indian Entrepreneurs

3537. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government exercise any control over the investments, earnings and remittances of Indian entrepreneurs who have set up joint ventures abroad; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Proposals for Indian joint ventures abroad are considered in terms of the Guidelines which provide for fast track approval for equity participation upto US $ 2 million of which the cash remittance does not exceed US $ 0.5 million. In cases exceeding these limits, the proposals are considered by an Inter-Ministerial Committee. R.B.I. issues approvals for cash remittance, capitalization of export proceeds, royalty, fees etc. under provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act. Guidelines also provide for remittance of all entitlements of Indian entrepreneurs within a specific time frame.

Trade with Latin American Countries

3538. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the share of Latin American Countries in India's trade was loss than one per cent and that trade and investment potential between them have largely remained untapped;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for India for making significant forays into initiating industrial tie-ups with these countries; and

(c) what steps Government have taken so far for forging greater economic cooperation with such countries on account of "big scope for trade/business opportunities" as reportedly stated by the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Venezuela and Mexico in their views published in the Hindustan Times dated 5th August, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) The share of Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries in India's trade was about 1.2 per cent in 1993-94. Until recently the low value of the trade was largely due to the countries in the region following policies of import restrictions through licensing and high tariffs. Some of the other reasons affecting our trade and commercial relations with this region have been distance, language barrier and absence of direct shipping lines.

With the opening up of major Latin American economies and adoption of far-reaching economic reform measures in India, the possibilities of bilateral expansion of trade and other forms of economic ties have increased. Government of India is taking all possible steps to expand trade and commercial relations with LAC countries. The promotional measures include *inter-alia*, participation in fairs and exhibitions,

sending trade delegations and sales-cum-study teams, organising buyer-seller meets, disseminating trade inquiries among manufacturing organisations, trade bodies and export promotion agencies and making available all relevant trade data which the trading community needs in connection with their imports and exports to LAC region.

Import of Homoeopathic Medicines

3539. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of Homoeopathic medicines imported during the last 3 years; and

(b) the countries from where these imports were made?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The value of homoeopathic medicines imported during the last three years and the countries from where these imports were made are as under:—

Year	Value (Rs. in Lakhs)	Countries from where imports were made
1991-92	118.47	Switzerland, UK, Japan, Singapore, France, German F. Republic, Italy and USA.
1992-93	117.71	
1993-94	(P)381.10	

P : Provisional figure
SOURCE : DGCI&S

Agricultural products debarred for export without licence

3540. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of Agricultural products debarred from export without licence and what are the restrictions imposed on them like Minimum Export Price, Export Quota etc.;

(b) what steps are being envisaged to simplify this process and remove all sorts of restrictions on them; and

(c) what are the details of Agricultural Products open for export without licence?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The prohibited items of export in the agriculture and allied sectors are detailed in Part I of the Negative List of Exports of EXIM Policy 1992—97. These include all forms of wild animals, exotic birds, endangered species of plants, beef, tallow, fat and/or oils of animal origin, wood and wood products, sandlwood and red sanders wood. These items are not allowed for export due to environmental reasons and public sentiment, etc.

It is the policy of the Government to allow the exports of items of mass consumption in such a manner that it does not compromise our food security system. With this objective in view, Government prescribes Minimum Export Price (MEP) and/or quantitative ceilings in respect of rice, wheat, coarse grains, sugar, raw cotton, sunflower-seeds, mustard seed and rapeseed, meat of sheep and goat, powder milk, pure milk ghee and butter.

(b) Review of export policy is a continuous process and the policy is decided keeping in view the demand/supply position of the commodities.

(c) All agricultural items not covered by the Exim Policy (Negative List of Exports Part I & II) and those not regulated by any other law for the time